



*News From*

# **Maggie Brooks**

## *Monroe County Executive*

**For Immediate Release**

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### **BROOKS, ROCHESTERWORKS! AND URBAN LEAGUE OPEN WELFARE-TO-WORK CENTER**

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today held an official grand opening ceremony for the new Welfare-To-Work Center located at the Monroe County Department of Human and Health Services (DHHS), 691 St. Paul Street. The Center was established through an innovative partnership between Monroe County DHHS, RochesterWorks! and the Urban League – a partnership proposed by County Executive Brooks.

Joining Brooks for the ceremony were **William Clark**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League; **Martin Birmingham**, Chair of the Workforce Investment Board and President of Bank of America, Rochester Region; and **Patricia A. Stevens**, Commissioner of the Monroe County Department of Human and Health Services.

*“The Welfare-To-Work Center is the perfect example of collaboration at work. In a unique partnership with the Urban League and RochesterWorks!, we opened this Center to achieve one of our top goals for this community – to help people find good jobs,”* said Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks**. *“The Welfare-To-Work Center provides employment services that help individuals on public assistance find work and build lives of self-sufficiency and independence. I thank the Urban League and RochesterWorks! for partnering with us in this important effort.”*

*“This partnership provides the Urban League with a unique opportunity to fulfill its mission of making economic self-sufficiency a reality for many Monroe County citizens who are in need of employment,”* said **William Clark**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League. *“By combining the strengths and expertise of Monroe County DHHS, RochesterWorks! and the Urban League, we have already begun to realize the positive results of this collaboration. I applaud the efforts of all parties in making this client-centered collaboration a reality.”*

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*“RochesterWorks! is pleased to partner with Monroe County and the Urban League on the Welfare-To-Work Center. The Center is a much needed and important resource for those looking to secure employment and become self-sufficient. I applaud County Executive Brooks for her vision and leadership in the Center’s establishment,”* said **Martin Birmingham**, Chair of the Workforce Investment Board and President of Bank of America, Rochester Region.

In February 2004, County Executive Brooks proposed to RochesterWorks! the creation of an on-site, comprehensive Welfare-To-Work Center to be located at the County DHHS office on St. Paul Street. As a result, RochesterWorks! contracted with the Urban League to operate the Center at DHHS. The Center is jointly operated and staffed by Monroe County DHHS and the Urban League.

The mission of the Welfare-To-Work Center is to help public assistance clients find jobs. The Center consists of four components: a Resource Room, the operation of the Pathways Program, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services, and referrals to Placement and Post-Placement service providers.

The Welfare-To-Work Center began operations in August 2004. Since then, the Center has helped 31 people find jobs. The Welfare-To-Work Center is currently assisting over 200 clients in their employment search.

*“The Welfare-To-Work Center has already proven to be a success, helping 31 people on public assistance find work and begin a rewarding career. Through our partnership, we will continue to build on this success and help even more individuals find jobs,”* Brooks concluded.

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